

132 What is wrong with the following proof:

$$\begin{aligned} & (R \iff R.S) \\ = & (R \iff \perp.S) \\ = & (R \iff \perp) \\ = & \top \end{aligned}$$

use context rule

\perp is base for \cdot .

base law for \iff

After trying the question, scroll down to the solution.

§ The sequential composition operator is defined as

$$R.S = \exists\sigma'' \cdot (\text{substitute } \sigma'' \text{ for } \sigma' \text{ in } R) \wedge (\text{substitute } \sigma'' \text{ for } \sigma \text{ in } S)$$

so the context rule cannot be used. The R which is the consequent of the implication is a binary expression in variables σ and σ' . The R which is the left operand of the sequential composition, after substitution, is a binary expression in variables σ and σ'' . So they are not the same expression. However, if σ' does not appear in R , then they are the same expression, and the context rule can be used. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} & (x=2 \Leftarrow x=2. x' = x+1) \\ = & (x=2 \Leftarrow (\exists x'' \cdot x=2 \wedge x' = x''+1)) && \text{use one-point} \\ = & (x=2 \Leftarrow x=2) && \text{reflexive law for } \Leftarrow \\ = & \top \end{aligned}$$